



Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. – 16. (canceled).

17. (Currently Amended): An analytical model preparing apparatus comprising:

means for entering a shape model to be analyzed;

a database which maps at least one each of a plurality of already prepared shape models with an analytical mesh model and registers the same;

a degree of approximation calculating means including:

means for ~~comparing the~~ preparing associated information of shape elements by comparing shape elements in the shape model to be analyzed with the shape elements in the already prepared shape models and associating the shape elements in the shape model to be analyzed with the shape elements in the already prepared shape models, with each other, and

means for calculating a degree of approximation of the shape elements of the already prepared shape models based on the number of shape elements of the shape model to be analyzed associated with the associated information of the shape elements, ~~of the already prepared shape model and~~

means for displaying the already prepared shape models sequentially from larger to smaller degrees of approximation on a display screen, and

means for selecting in response to an instruction, ~~selecting~~ at least one already prepared shape model from among said already prepared shape models displayed; and

an analytical model preparing means for preparing an analytical mesh model of the shape model to be analyzed by use of attribute information prepared for the analytical mesh model corresponding to said at least one already prepared shape model selected by the means for selecting, in accordance with the associated information of the shape elements between the shape elements in the shape model to be analyzed and the shape elements in the already prepared shape models.

18. (Currently Amended): An analytical model preparing apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said degree of approximation calculating means includes means for comparing an intrinsic identifier of the shape element in the shape model to be analyzed with an intrinsic identifiers of the shape elements in the already prepared shape models, and associating the shape elements having the same identifier with each other.

19. (Currently Amended): An analytical model preparing apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said degree of approximation calculating means includes means for comparing topological information of the shape element in the shape model to be analyzed with topological information of the shape elements in the already prepared

shape models, and associating the shape elements having the same topology with each other.

20. (Currently Amended): An analytical model preparing apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said degree of approximation calculating means includes means for comparing coordinate values of the shape element in the shape model to be analyzed with coordinate values of the shape elements in the already prepared shape models, and associating the shape elements having the same coordinate values with each other.